for eight projects at an approximate amount of Rs. 5250.17 crores were signed on 31.3.04 between the Government of India and Government of Japan. During 2003-04, the disbursement of ODA loans amounted to about Rs. 3243 crores at the prevailing exchange rate.

Cashew Development Board

*191.SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion/proposal for setting up of a Cashew Development Board;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Board;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the representation received in this regard, the objectives for the suggested cashew board are to assist and regulate the export and import of cashew, development of cashew plantations, and value-added cashew processing small-scale units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

BPL persons in Metropolitan Cities

†*192. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons living Below Poverty Line in metropolitan cities togetherwith the number of persons living in jhuggi-jhopris; and

(b) Government's proposal to bring them above the poverty line and to provide them better accommodation facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.